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October 20, 2014

The Honorable Martha Coakley
Antitrust Division
Office of Attorney General
One Ashburton Place, 18th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Via facsimile to 617.722.0184

Re: The Merger of Partners and South Shore Hospital

Dear Madam Attorney General,

I am writing to you today to once again support the proposed merger of South Shore Hospital and Partners Health Care. It has long since past the time to move forward with the settlement that your office has negotiated in regards to this transaction and it is my fear that this delay will hold up what would become a precious community resource in the South Shore.

It is has been stated on more than one occasion that South Shore Hospital is an important economic development catalyst for the entire region. Whether it is good paying jobs for our area's working families or good quality health care, we would not survive without South Shore Hospital. The potential for a relationship with Partners Health Care furthers these points, as South Shore Hospital would bring a world-class brand to our neighborhood.

This negotiated settlement is a first of its kind opportunity to create efficiencies in health care, which can be used to control costs in the long term. More importantly to the working families I represent, the merger of South Shore Hospital and Partners Health Care ensures the viability of a resource that wouldn't necessarily survive with current trends pertaining to community hospitals throughout the Commonwealth. This hospital needs this merger to survive.

We are in support of the efforts undertaken by the Attorney General by amending the settlement agreement to cap costs in the Partners/Hallmark system for our neighbors on the North Shore who depend upon access to that system. We are eager to see this transaction come to a prompt conclusion.

Sincerely,

Robert Rizzi
President